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least to retard, the peroxidation of the iron, and this, probably, is the reason why it is less difficult to gain a good result with hard than with soft or decarbonized steel.

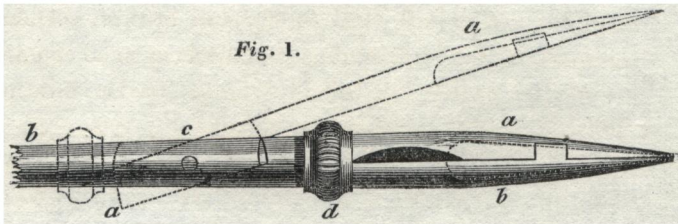
The composition employed by Mr. Humphrys contains no nitric acid; and, from the testimony before the Committee of Mr. W. Finden, Mr. Warren, Mr. Romney, and others, who have tried it; and also from the result of experiments made in presence of the Committee, appears to be superior for biting in on soft steel to any menstruum that has hitherto been used.

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No. VI.

DRAWING PEN.

BRYAN DONKIN, Esq., one of the chairmen of the Committee of Mechanics, having procured in France a drawing-pen, which appears to possess some advantages over those made use of in this country, presented it to the Society. The instrument itself has been placed in the repository, and the subjoined figure and description of it are published for the advantage of English artists.



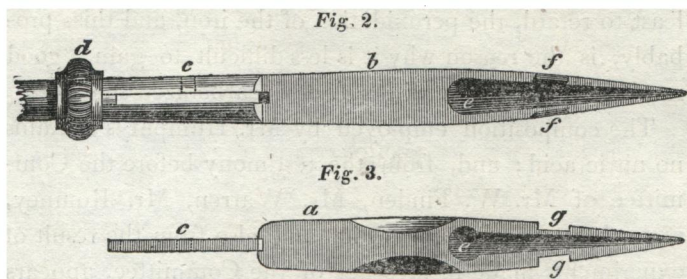


Fig. 1 represents the drawing end of the pen, twice as large as the original; the two parts *aa* and *bb* are jointed at *c*, and held together by the sliding-ring *d*; the dotted lines *aa* show how that part opens, and thus allows the pen to be charged with ink.

Figs. 2 and 3 show the parts *a* and *b* separated; each part has a corresponding cavity *ee* to hold the ink, the channel being as small at the point as the line the pen is intended to draw; two studs *ff* fit into corresponding notches *gg*, and keep the points accurately together.